

# Claims

- [c1] A solder interconnect used with an integrated circuit structure, said interconnect comprising:
  - a metal layer on a substrate;
  - a first copper layer on said metal layer;
  - a barrier layer on said copper layer;
  - a stabilizing copper layer on said barrier layer; and
  - a tin-based solder bump on said barrier layer.
- [c2] The interconnect in claim 1, wherein said stabilizing copper layer comprises a sufficient amount of copper to balance the chemical potential gradient of copper across said barrier layer and prevent copper within said first copper layer from diffusing across said barrier layer.
- [c3] The interconnect in claim 1, wherein said tin-based solder bump comprises a copper rich solder alloy.
- [c4] The interconnect in claim 1, wherein said metal layer comprises diffusion metallurgy including at least one of Al, Ti, TiW, Cr, Ta, and TaN.
- [c5] The interconnect in claim 1, wherein said barrier layer comprises one of Ni, V, and NiV.

- [c6] The interconnect in claim 1, wherein said tin-based solder bump comprises one of a eutectic PbSn solder and lead-free solders.
- [c7] A solder interconnect used with an integrated circuit structure, said interconnect comprising:  
a metal layer on a substrate;  
a first copper layer on said metal layer;  
a barrier layer on said copper layer;  
a copper and tin-based solder alloy bump on said barrier layer.
- [c8] The interconnect in claim 7, wherein said copper and tin-based solder alloy bump comprises a sufficient amount of copper to balance the chemical potential gradient of copper across said barrier layer and prevent copper within said first copper layer from diffusing across said barrier layer.
- [c9] The interconnect in claim 7, wherein said metal layer comprises diffusion metallurgy including at least one of Al, Ti, TiW, Cr, Ta, and TaN.
- [c10] The interconnect in claim 7, wherein said barrier layer comprises one of Ni, V, and NiV.
- [c11] The interconnect in claim 7, wherein said tin-based solder alloy bump comprises one of a eutectic PbSn solder

and lead-free solders.

- [c12] An integrated circuit structure comprising:
  - internal circuitry; and
  - an interconnect on an external portion of said structure, said interconnect comprising:
    - a metal layer on said external portion of said structure;
    - a first copper layer on said metal layer;
    - a barrier layer on said copper layer;
    - a stabilizing copper layer on said barrier layer; and
    - a tin-based solder bump on said barrier layer.
- [c13] The structure in claim 12, wherein said stabilizing copper layer comprises a sufficient amount of copper to balance the chemical potential gradient of copper across said barrier layer and prevent copper within said first copper layer from diffusing across said barrier layer.
- [c14] The structure in claim 12, wherein said tin-based solder bump comprises a copper rich solder alloy.
- [c15] The structure in claim 12, wherein said metal layer comprises diffusion metallurgy including at least one of Al, Ti, TiW, Cr, Ta, and TaN.
- [c16] The structure in claim 12, wherein said barrier layer comprises one of Ni, V, and NiV.

- [c17] The structure in claim 12, wherein said tin-based solder bump comprises one of a eutectic PbSn solder and lead-free solders.
- [c18] An integrated circuit structure comprising:  
internal circuitry; and  
an interconnect on an external portion of said structure, said interconnect comprising:  
a metal layer on said external portion of said structure;  
a first copper layer on said metal layer;  
a barrier layer on said copper layer;  
a copper and tin-based solder alloy bump on said barrier layer.
- [c19] The structure in claim 18, wherein said copper and tin-based solder alloy bump comprises a sufficient amount of copper to balance the chemical potential gradient of copper across said barrier layer and prevent copper within said first copper layer from diffusing across said barrier layer.
- [c20] The structure in claim 18, wherein said metal layer comprises diffusion metallurgy including at least one of Al, Ti, TiW, Cr, Ta, and TaN.
- [c21] The structure in claim 18, wherein said barrier layer comprises one of Ni, V, and NiV.

[c22] The structure in claim 18, wherein said tin-based solder alloy bump comprises one of a eutectic PbSn solder and lead-free solders.